AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (withdrawn): A sealant composition for filter element which is a sealant for forming a seal section on the top face and/or bottom of a cylindrical filter element having a chrysanthemum-like cross section formed by pleating a filter medium, the sealant composition comprising a photopolymerization initiator sensitive to light having a wavelength of 380 nm or longer and an ethylenically double bond-containing compound and having photo-curing properties.

2. (withdrawn): The sealant composition for filter element as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ethylenically double bond-containing compound is an acrylic compound having radical polymerizability.

3. (withdrawn): The sealant composition for filter element as claimed in claim 2, wherein a polyfunctional acrylic compound is compounded as the acrylic compound having radical polymerizability.

4. (withdrawn): The sealant composition for filter element as claimed in claim 3, wherein the polyfunctional acrylic compound is compounded in an amount of 3 parts by weight or more to the total acrylic compounds.

5. (withdrawn): The sealant composition for filter element as claimed in claim 1, wherein addition amount of the photopolymerization initiator is 0.1-15 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the ethylenically double bond-containing compound.

6. (withdrawn): The sealant composition for filter element as claimed in claim 5, wherein the addition amount of the photopolymerization initiator is 0.1-10 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the ethylenically double bond-containing compound.

7. (withdrawn): The sealant composition for filter element as claimed in claim 1, which has a viscosity before photo-curing of 800 mPa·s or more.

8. (withdrawn): The sealant composition for filter element as claimed in claim 7, which has a viscosity before photo-curing of 2,000 mPa·s or more.

9. (currently amended): A method of forming a seal section, which comprises filling a sealant composition for a filter element comprising a photopolymerization initiator sensitive to light having a wavelength of 380 nm or longer and an ethylenically double bond-containing compound and having photo-curing properties in a groove of a molding die comprising a material having permeability to light having a wavelength of 380 nm or longer and a solubility parameter of 8.5 or lower, where the solubility parameter has the units $(cal/cm^3)^{1/2}$ ~~mol^{-1}~~, the groove being formed coincident with the seal section to be formed on a top face and/or bottom of a cylindrical filter element having a chrysanthemum-like cross section formed by pleating a filter medium; setting the molding die in a seal section-forming portion on the top face and/or bottom of the filter element such that the filled sealant composition can be laminated; and irradiating the

molding die with light having a wavelength of 380 nm or longer to cure the sealant composition by the light having transmitted through the molding die, thereby forming the seal section on the top face and/or bottom of the chrysanthemum-like cylindrical filter element.

10. (original): The method of forming a seal section as claimed in claim 9, wherein the material of the molding die is polytetrafluoroethylene, ethylene fluoride-propylene copolymer resins, perfluoroalkoxy resins, polypropylene, or polyethylene.

11. (currently amended): The method of forming a seal section as claimed in claim 10, wherein the material of the molding die is polytetrafluoroethylene, ethylene fluoride-propylene copolymer resins, or perfluoroalkoxy resins.

12. (previously presented): The method of forming a seal section as claimed in claim 9, wherein the irradiation dose of light having a wavelength of 380 nm or longer is 200 mJ/cm^2 or more.

13. (original): The method of forming a seal section as claimed in claim 12, wherein the irradiation dose of light having a wavelength of 380 nm or longer is 500-10,000 mJ/cm^2.

14. (new): The method of forming a seal section as claimed in claim 9, wherein the ethylenically double bond-containing compound is an acrylic compound having radical polymerizability.

15. (new): The method of forming a seal section as claimed in claim 14, wherein a polyfunctional acrylic compound is compounded as the acrylic compound having radical polymerizability.

16. (new): The method of forming a seal section as claimed in claim 15, wherein the polyfunctional acrylic compound is compounded in an amount of 3 parts by weight or more to the total acrylic compounds.

17. (new): The method of forming a seal section as claimed in claim 9, wherein addition amount of the photopolymerization initiator in the sealant composition is 0.1-15 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the ethylenically double bond-containing compound.

18. (new): The method of forming a seal section as claimed in claim 17, wherein the addition amount of the photopolymerization initiator in the sealant composition is 0.1-10 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the ethylenically double bond-containing compound.

19. (new): The method of forming a seal section as claimed in claim 9, wherein the sealant composition has a viscosity before photo-curing of 800 mPa·s or more.

20. (new): The method of forming a seal section as claimed in claim 19, wherein the sealant composition has a viscosity before photo-curing of 2,000 mPa·s or more.